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SOURCE Nepszava, Fc 125, 1949

TRADE UNIONS RELEASE
FIRST-QUARTER COMPETITION RESULTS

Numerous trade unions have held conferences at which socialist competition results for the first quarter 1949 were discussed. The secretaries-general of the various trade unions submitted production reports of their respective industries.

Metal Industry

Jozsef Mekis, secretary-general of the ironworkers union, reported that the iron industry as a whole had completed its plan for the quarter by 104 percent. The smelting industry fulfilled its plan by 117 percent. If 1949 results equal 100, production in the smelting industry should be increased by 180 percent by 1954. Of the individual plants, the Ozd plant completed its plan by 113 percent, the Ganz shipyard by 105 percent, and the Manfred Weiss plant by 107 percent. These results were due largely to the brigade system. As for machine building, production has increased to 175.6 percent of the 1938 level.

Worker competitions are increasing in popularity. Only 200 shops with 150,000 workers participated in the second work competition whereas 231 shops with 164,000 workers participated in the third socialist competition.

Makis also pointed out some shortcomings in the industry. He mentioned the Budafok Enamelware Factory, where the work committee and the plant managers were not cooperating.

Lasslo Csato, of the Hofherr factory, reported that now only 620 hours are needed to complete a tractor instead of 960 hours. Szikora, of the Otd plant, reports that there are still flaws in their steel mills, but that corrective measures are being taken.

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Mining Industry

The miners trade union conference was opened by Jozsef Pothornyik, its president. Janos Zagerka, the secretary-general, made the report. He stated that coal production in 1948 was 93,597,000 centners; in 1948, the output was already up to 106,420,000 centners. Iron-ore production surpassed the 1938 level by 86,000 centners. In the production of bauxite, 346,000 tons more were produced in 1948 than in 1945. In manganese production, the 1938 figure was surpassed by 84.37 percent.

So far the 1949 production plan has been fulfilled as follows: coal production 103 percent, bauxite 180 percent, and iron manganese 122 percent. During the Five-Year Plan, 1,600,000,000 forints will be allocated to the mining industry. This investment will be used for electrification purposes, for 2,300 modern compressed-air hammers, 900 grading units, 500 windlasses, a total of 100 kilometers of hawser track, several thousand meters of rubber conveyor belts, and 20,000 new lorries. The industry will also need 6,500 unskilled workers, 500 miners, 100 mining engineers, and 100 technical machinists. This will increase the yearly coal production to 18,400,000 tons. During the Five-Year Plan, 4,000 newer miners' homes, more hospitals, sanitariums, resorts, and schools will be built.

Building Industry

The building union's conference was opened by Miklos Somogyi. Janos Torok, secretary-general of the union, gave the report. The cement industry has completed its plan by 119 percent. Experiments are being conducted at Labatlan and Belapatfalva to produce better-quality cement. In the production of porcelain electric insulators, the plan was fulfilled by 114 percent. In the future, the Zsolnay-Drasche factory at Pecs will be expanded and developed. The emery-wheel industry exceeded its plan by 21 percent. Production for the first quarter of this year was 21 million bricks and 7 million pieces of tile. A total of 240 million bricks and 124 million pieces of tile has been produced thus far this year. Production at the quarries has tripled since 1947, and 270,000 carloads of rock have already been mined this year. This great increase in production is necessary in order to supply the road-building industry with enough materials.

Textile Industry

Jozsef Apro, president of the textile and clothing union, opened the conference. Anna Ratko, the secretary-general, gave the report. The number of textile workers in the last month was again increased by 4,000. Today there are 147 plants with 72,600 workers participating in socialist competition. In the second half of 1949, production will be increased by 5 percent, with special attention to quality. The investment in the second half of 1949 will exceed the first half by 450 percent. Large-scale building is being carried out by the Hungarian Spinning Industry, the Gsepel Cloth Factory and the Linum Flax Spinning Mill. Dezes Grabinsky, director of the Kistext mill, reports that the mill will produce 24 million meters of textiles in 1949 as compared with 17 million meters in 1938.

Food Industry

Laszlo Pivos, president of the union, opened the conference. Imre Kovacs, secretary-general of the union, gave the production report. The food industry has completed its first quarter plan by 121.2 percent. The value of production per work hour was raised to 73.2 forints in March as compared to 53 forints in August of last year. The productivity of the plants in the food industry has increased 12 percent as compared with the last 5 months of 1948. In December, 120 plants with 22,000 workers took part in the work competition, while today, there are 159 plants with 26,000 workers participating in the competition.

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Printing and Paper Industry

Erno Gallo, secretary-general of the union, reported that of the nationalized printing and paper plants, 14 plants had completed their plans for the first quarter. In the previous work competition, 36 shops participated; today, 56 shops are taking part.

Public Works

Sandor Seprenyi, secretary-general of the National Union of City and Country Employees, reported the results in public works. The Gasworks completed the Miasp-Budapest gas line ahead of schedule. The Electric Works of Matravideki Central were completed ahead of time. The Sewage Works exceed their plan by 3 to 4 percent every month. For this, they were the first to receive the trade-union pennant. Istvan Kelemen, competition secretary of the Highway Construction Company, reported that this year's asphalt production exceeded that of 1948 by 2,400 tons. The value of production per work hour has increased from the 1947 level of 8 forints to the present level of 16 forints.

Motor Vehicles

Bela Toth, secretary-general of the motor vehicles union, reported that in 1938, 35,000 motor vehicles were in operation, while today there are 52,000. This denotes an increase of 52 percent. Fuel consumption by autobuses has been reduced from 38.9 liters per 100 kilometers to 31.8 liters per 100 kilometers. The number of accidents decreased by 60 percent. The number of trucks in operation has increased from 135 to almost 400, and they now carry 60,000 tons of merchandise as compared with 10,000 tons last December.

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